

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1           1. (currently amended) Pressure limiting valve for a fluid medium under system  
2 pressure, with a valve housing, in which are provided an inlet channel and an outlet channel  
3 communicating therewith for the medium, wherein the flowrate of the medium can be regulated  
4 by an axially movable valve body, in effective connection with an energy accumulator, and  
5 interacting with a valve seat, wherein a piston coaxially adjoining the valve body bounds with its  
6 lateral surface a throttle gap, ~~[which]~~ said throttle gap positioned between the circumference of  
7 the piston and the inner wall of the valve housing such that the throttle gap communicates with  
8 the inlet channel and can be subjected to pressure directly or indirectly by the energy  
9 accumulator.

1           2. (withdrawn) Pressure limiting valve according to Claim 1, in which a pilot valve is  
2 arranged between the valve housing and the energy accumulator, wherein the pilot valve has a  
3 pressure space at the end of the piston away from the valve body, into which the throttle gap  
4 emerges, and which is bounded by the end face of the piston, as well as an oppositely situated  
5 receiving part and laterally by the inner wall of the sealing sleeve.

1           3. (original) Pressure limiting valve according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein a pressure  
2 chamber is provided in the transition region between the valve body and the piston, into which  
3 the inlet channel emerges.

1           4. (original) Pressure limiting valve according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the inlet channel  
2 is arranged transversely to the lengthwise axis of the valve body/piston structural assembly.

1           5. (original) Pressure limiting valve according to Claim 1, wherein the valve body in the

2 operating position is arranged centered in a valve seat, forming a gap.

1 6. (original) Pressure limiting valve according to Claim 1, wherein the valve body tapers  
2 toward its end away from the piston

1 7. (original) Pressure limiting valve according to Claim 1, wherein the piston is enclosed  
2 on its lateral surface by a stationary sealing sleeve.

1 8. (currently amended) Pressure limiting valve according to Claim 1, wherein the piston  
2 and the sealing sleeve are made of a wear-resistant material[,preferably hard metal].

1 9. (original) Pressure limiting valve according to Claim 1, wherein a leakage bore is  
2 provided in order to carry away the medium moving through the throttle gap in the valve  
3 housing.

1 10. (withdrawn) Pressure limiting valve according to Claim 2, wherein a borehole  
2 communicating with the pressure space is arranged in the receiving part and can be closed at its  
3 other end by a control cone, which communicates with the energy accumulator.

1 11. (withdrawn) Pressure limiting valve according to Claim 1, wherein the leakage bore  
2 is arranged in the region near the place where the control cone abuts the receiving part.

1 12. (new) Pressure limiting valve according to claim 8 wherein the wear-resistant  
2 material is hard metal.